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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Jena

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 May 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following materiel from the barracks installation at Jena-Loebstedt was loaded in Jena:

On 13 April: billeting equipment at the Saale railroad station.

On 15 April: 12 JS tanks with numbers pasted over at Westbahnhof.

On 16 April: 10 JS tanks at Saale railroad station.

On 17 April: 20 tanks, 5 of which had come from the direction of Zwaetzen, were loaded at the Saale railroad station.

The same train was loaded with tank truck and trucks both with billeting equipment. On 19 April, the barracks installation in Loebstedt was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Only individual barracks installations were partly lighted at dusk.

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2. On 19 April, the barracks installation in Jena-Zwaetzen was vacant except for one quarters housing a rear detail. ¹
3. On 19 April, the Forst Kaserne in Jena was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Sixteen artillery pieces and 4 small AT guns were parked in the barracks yard. Three T-34 tanks moved to the barracks installation, apparently coming from an exercise. About 350 men followed by truck with a military band left the barracks installation on 10 April. Shortly afterwards, a colonel, a major, and a senior lieutenant, all wearing red-bordered black epaulets, were seen leaving the installation. On 19 April, troops engaged in firing practices on the target ranges near the quarries. ²
4. On 11 March, the landing field of Roedigen airfield was ploughed. A shed about 100 meters long, a three-story quartering building and a headquarters building of the airfield administration with turret-like superstructure were seen along the landing field. No hangars were determined. Craftsmen fitted windows to the headquarters building. ³

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5. On 12 April, the Forst Kaserne was occupied by about 700 troops. There was intensive training activity. Twelve artillery pieces, apparently in emplacements, were seen in the billeting area. They had an estimated 100 mm caliber. Five other guns were seen along the fence. Mounds of earth separated the heavy artillery pieces from the light guns along the fence. About 15 motorcycles were seen in the barracks yard. Troops were daily engaged in trench warfare. Tanks engaged in driving practice in the billeting area.
6. [redacted] the Polizei Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops on 12 April. Soldiers of a signal communication unit received individual training in the Woellnitz Meadows and practiced the laying of field cables. ⁴
1. [redacted] Comment. The tank units of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from the barracks installation in Iobstedt and Zwaetzen are believed to have been transferred to Camp Crawinkel, Ohrdruf, where they had been in 1952. [redacted] heavy elements of the division can be carried there. [redacted]
2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the Forst Kaserne is occupied by the 2504th Gds AAA Regt (US) or the 20th Gds Mecz Div since November 1952. The present report further indicates that also the 65th Tank Tnb Bn [redacted] is stationed there.
3. [redacted] Comment. An ammunition depot is carried at Roedigen airfield. [redacted]
4. [redacted] Comment. The unidentified signal battalion of the 20th Gds Mecz Div is assumed to be stationed in the Polizei Kaserne. It is of interest that these and the units mentioned in [redacted] Comment 2 were previously carried in Jens-Zwaetzen. [redacted]

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